



# Service Procedure

## DISTRICT SUPPORT TEAMS OBSERVATION DUTIES

SP Identification Number	7/15
Protective Marking	<b>NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED</b>
Policy Ownership:	
Department	Crime Operations
Branch	C4 Specialist Operations Branch
Author	19377
Procedure Approved By:	ACC Crime Operations
Service Executive	N/A
Department or Branch Head	
Date Of Approval	17 July 2015
Date First Issued:	21 July 2015
Version Number	1
This Version Issued:	21 July 2015
Review Date:	3 years from issue date
Governing Policy Directive:	

**ABSTRACT:** This Service Procedure is aimed at Districts and Branches that have a requirement to deploy District Support Teams on observation duties.

## **INDEX**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Service Procedure Identification Page	1
2	Aim of Service Procedure	3
3	Introduction	3
4	Legal Basis	3
5	Policy Links	3-4
6	Consultation	4
7	Human Rights/United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)/Equality/Code of Ethics/Freedom of Information	4
8	Monitoring and Review	4
9	Cancellation	4

**2. AIM OF SERVICE PROCEDURE**

The aim of this Service Procedure is to provide the procedures relating to the formation, training, deployment and accountability of District Support Teams whilst deployed on observation duties.

**3. INTRODUCTION**

District Support Teams by means of covert and overt operations, enhance intelligence on local crime and criminals, resulting in the arrest and prosecution of offenders and a reduction in crime levels.

- (1) When carrying out observation duties suitably trained District Support Teams will be capable of:
  - (a) Occupying Urban or Rural District Support Team static observation points;
  - (b) Foot observation of level 1 crime/criminals (Volume Crime as defined in the National Intelligence Model).
- (2) **However District Support Teams will not engage in:**
  - (a) Any activity which is more appropriately conducted by a specialist covert unit, i.e. C4 Specialist Operations Branch (SOB);
  - (b) Mobile surveillance;
  - (c) Unauthorised operations;
  - (d) Any activity, contrary to or conflicting with C4 SOB operations and/or training received.

**4. LEGAL BASIS**

- (1) The legal basis and the main pieces of guidance relevant for this Service Procedure are:
  - (a) Police and Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989 (PACE);
  - (b) Health and Safety at Work Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1978;
  - (c) Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996;
  - (d) Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Police Act 1997;
  - (e) Police (Health and Safety) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
  - (f) Human Rights Act 1998;
  - (g) Data Protection Act 1998;
  - (h) Criminal Justice Act 2003;
- (2) District Support Team observation duties will at all times be in accordance with the law. The actions of all involved will comply with the Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA), which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic UK law. The actions of police must always be necessary and proportionate, and in compliance with the PSNI's Code of Ethics.

**5. POLICY LINKS**

This Service Procedure should be read in conjunction with the following:

- (1) PSNI ANPR Systems, guidance available on Police Intranet.
- (2) PSNI Manual of Policy, Procedure and Guidance on Conflict Management.

**6. CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with the following:

- (1) Police Senior Management;
- (2) Human Rights Legal Adviser;
- (3) ACPO Surveillance Working Group;
- (4) Policy, Planning and Performance Unit;
- (5) C3 Intelligence Branch;
- (6) Police Health and Safety Branch;
- (7) The Police College for Northern Ireland.

**7. HUMAN RIGHTS/UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (UNCRC)/EQUALITY/CODE OF ETHICS/FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

- (1) This Service Procedure is deemed to be Human Rights compliant, and there are no United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) issues.
- (2) The Service Procedure has been screened for Section 75 considerations and meets the organisation's integrity standards.
- (3) Sections 1 – 8 are suitable for public disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, however, the accompanying Procedure and Guidance at section 10 is suitable for internal dissemination only.

**8. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

- (1) C4 SOB will review this Service Procedure in 3 years from its date of publication or sooner if necessitated by legislative, regulatory or organisational requirements.
- (2) Interim reviews may also be prompted by feedback or challenge.
- (3) Any feedback or queries relating to this Service Procedure should be addressed to Head of Branch, C4 SOB.

**9. CANCELLATION**

The Service Procedure 6/2011 ' Crime Teams – Observation Duties ' is hereby cancelled.